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PERSIA.

*Precautions against the importation of the bubonic plague from India.*TEHERAN, PERSIA, *October 26, 1896.*

SIR: In view of the appearance of the plague in Bombay, and the possibility of its moving northwards, it is satisfactory to know that the Persian Government is fully alive to the danger which threatens the south, at least, of their country. Dr. Wishard, the missionary doctor in Teheran, informs me that he attended the meeting of the sanitary council on the 24th instant, at which it was decided that strict quarantine should, under the direction of the doctor of the English residency in Bushire, be established on all the ports on the Persian Gulf. The prime minister has undertaken, by obtaining the permission of the Indian Government, to give effect to this decision.

Persia is not a stranger to the ravages of this disease. In the spring of 1877 it broke out in a most malignant form in Resht, on the Caspian, and by the autumn of the same year, when it disappeared, some thousands had died. So far as I can remember it was confined to the town and the neighboring districts. By what means it reached this place was never ascertained, but it was surmised that pilgrims from the holy places beyond Bagdad imported it in clothing. Since that time Persia has escaped the scourge, although I have reason to believe that it appeared in Bagdad after that year. During the early part of my residence in Persia it was no unusual occurrence in that city, where it committed great destruction of life; but for many years nothing has been heard of it.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

JOHN TYLER,

Vice Consul-General in Charge.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

TURKEY.

Sanitary report from Constantinople.

[Report 163.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, *November 18, 1896.*

SIR: The sanitary news from the different provinces of the Turkish Empire is good. Only the province of Lebanon is to be excepted. Diphtheria still exists in this latter province according to official news.

In Constantinople we have to deal with nearly all the infectious diseases which we have to state do not prove very fatal. According to the death returns of the month of October, 30 deaths have been registered from smallpox, 25 from diphtheria, 21 from typhoid fever, 14 from scarlet fever, and 6 from measles. It is impossible to state how many per cent the above-mentioned deaths represent. It is a fact that there are many and many cases observed of the above-mentioned infectious diseases which recover.

The Russian sanitary representative has made, as reported in my previous reports, complaints on the wretched condition of the prisoners, and has proposed the appointment of a commission the duty of which would be to inspect the different prisons of Constantinople. By a *tezkeré* of the Grand Vizier the Turkish Government declares that such